

5-1954

## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 30, no. 2)

Kentucky Library Research Collections  
Western Kentucky University, [spcol@wku.edu](mailto:spcol@wku.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky\\_warbler](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler)



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 30, no. 2)" (1954). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 116.  
[http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky\\_warbler/116](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/116)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact [todd.seguin@wku.edu](mailto:todd.seguin@wku.edu).

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Official Publication  
of

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

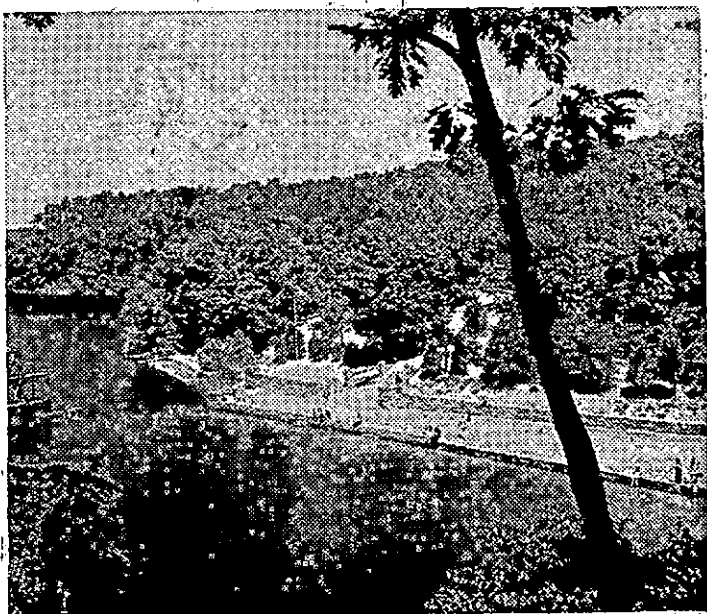
---

Vol. XXX

MAY, 1954

No. 2

---



At Pennyriple Forest State Park near Dawson Springs, this beach and swimming area provide the guest with the best in recreational facilities. Boats are also available and fishing is good.

(Cut used with the compliments of IN KENTUCKY MAGAZINE and Mack Sisk, Editor.)

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Vol. XXX

MAY, 1954

No. 2

## *In This Number . . .*

The Breeding Birds of Hopkins County—James W. Hancock.....	19
Four Species of Birds as Recorded in Hopkins County —Brasher C. Bacon.....	26
Field Notes.....	31
Late Censuses—Danville, W. S. Glore, Jr., and Willard, Ercel Kozee; A Shrike's Nest, Harvey B. Lovell; Observations on Shrikes, L. Y. Lancaster; An Albino Robin, J. T. Cox; Barred Owl Inside City, L. Y. Lancaster; Woodcock Observations, Dan M. Russell; Albino Crows at Paris, J. W. Clotfelter.	
News and Views .....	33
Review of A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI—Harvey B. Lovell.....	33
Minutes of Our Spring Meeting.....	35
Treasurer's Report .....	36

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President.....	Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Anne L. Stamm, Louisville
Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer...	Mrs. W. B. Tabler, 2923 Riedling Dr., Louisville
Recording Secretary.....	Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville

### Councillors:

Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg, two years

Mr. Charles Meade, Henderson, two years

Mr. James W. Hancock, Madisonville, one year

Retiring President.....	Miss Virginia Smith, Henderson
Librarian .....	Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, Univ. of Louisville Library
Curator .....	Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage
Editor .....	Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut, Bowling Green
Assistant Editors .....	Leonard C. Brecher, Grace Wyatt

Active Membership, \$2.00; Student Membership, \$1.00; Contributing Membership, \$5.00; Life Membership, \$50.00.

All members are urged to send notes, articles, news items, and other material for publication to one of the editors.

## THE BREEDING BIRDS OF HOPKINS COUNTY

(Second Installment)

By James W. Hancock, Madisonville

**PIED-BILLED GREBE.** *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*. Fairly common transient, rare in summer. Bacon cites several nesting records (1935), mostly at Atkinson Lake, from 1909 to 1929.

**GREAT BLUE HERON.** *Ardea herodias*. Rare summer resident. Nests in the large swamp in western Hopkins County and probably also in Pond River bottoms, at the eastern boundary of the county. Mrs. Mabel Holt, her son-in-law, Robert Grause of Louisville, and the late Ham Frazer visited a heronry near the Frazer farm in early July, 1952. This heronry contained 12 nests approximately 50-60 feet up in about six trees, most of which were dead. According to Frazer, there had been about 75 birds, adults and young included, in mid-June, but only 1 young bird remained at the time of their visit. The ground was littered with food, feathers, and droppings.

**EASTERN GREEN HERON.** *Butorides virescens virescens*. Common summer resident. A nest in a willow has been previously described (Hancock, 1950). Another nest with 5 eggs was 12 feet up in an apple tree in a neglected orchard on May 21, 1953.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.** *Nyctanassa violacea*. Rare summer resident. Believed to breed in the Pond River area and also in the large western swamp. On May 31, 1948, two adults appeared to be making regular trips in and out of Pond River bottoms, as though carrying food, although no nest was ever discovered. Suthard (1926) recorded the species on June 27 and July 4, 1926, but at that time he regarded it as a migrant.

**AMERICAN BITTERN.** *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Very rare summer resident. Bacon writes (1933): "I have never found a nest but have seen the young unable to fly." This species was recorded in June in 1946 and 1953.

**EASTERN LEAST BITTERN.** *Ixobrychus exilis exilis*. Formerly a fairly common summer resident, now quite rare. Nest with 3 eggs in cattails at Spring Lake on June 3, 1935.

**MALLARD.** *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*. Rare summer resident. (Bacon, 1933); common transient.

**WOOD DUCK.** *Aix sponsa*. Uncommon summer resident. Female with 8 young at Pond River on May 31, 1948.

**TURKEY VULTURE.** *Cathartes aura*. Formerly a common permanent resident, but it has decreased in recent years. Suthard writes: "I have recorded two sets of eggs of this species collected from a large hollow log in Osborne's woods, west of Madisonville. A set almost ready to hatch was collected on May 27, 1923, and another set collected on April 23, 1924, from the same log. The latter was fresh. Both sets are so similar as to suggest the same pair of birds. In late April, 1912 and 1913, a number of nests were found in hollow logs, tree stumps, and brush piles in the woods near our home east of Madisonville."

**BLACK VULTURE.** *Coragyps atratus*. Permanent resident, now rarely seen about Madisonville. Up to at least 1935 this species was frequently recorded in the Madisonville area. Mrs. Semple still finds it hardly so rare in western Hopkins County.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.** *Accipiter striatus velox*. Rare permanent resident.

**COOPER'S HAWK.** *Accipiter cooperii*. Rare permanent resident. Suthard considered it a "common resident in thickly wooded areas. Several nests found in late April and May from 1915 to 1918 but I was never able to climb the trees because of their height and a lack of climbing equipment."

**RED-TAILED HAWK.** *Buteo jamalcensis*. Rare permanent resident. Quoting from Suthard: "On April 11, 1937, in company with Brasher Bacon, I visited an area known as Ball's Knob, where we found Red-tail nests in trees on a ridge overlooking a valley area, which is typical of this species. One nest was 15 feet up in the top of a large sycamore. This contained two poorly marked eggs which were ready to hatch. In another similar area about a mile northwest, we found other nests, a large one, 50 feet up in the top forks of a *Liriodendron tulipifera* (yellow poplar) tree. This nest apparently had not been used this year. Nearby, another old nest was located in a hickory about 45 feet up. The third nest in the area was 50 feet up in the small top of an elm tree and contained 2 young about 2-3 days old and part of a small rabbit. The nest was rather thin; so it must have built this year." Bacon cites nests in oak and sycamore trees (1953).

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.** *Buteo lineatus*. Fairly common permanent resident. Nest at Clear Creek about 20 feet up in a birch tree on April 16, 1935. According to Suthard: "On April 11, 1937, I found a nest of this species in a thinly wooded, damp area in the Elk Creek area. The nest was 40 feet up in an oak tree. The female remained on until I started to climb the tree. The nest contained one young about one day old and two heavily incubated eggs. These were nicely marked, as is common with this species in southern Illinois."

**SPARROW HAWK.** *Falco sparverius*. Fairly common permanent resident. Four young birds out of the nest at Municipal Park, Madisonville, on May 19, 1952. This species nests regularly in a Purple Martin box within the park. Suthard found numerous nests, but his records do not show any eggs having been collected. He found a nest with "3 white chicks about 2 days old" in a dead stub on May 13, 1923.

**BOB-WHITE.** *Colinus virginianus*. Common permanent resident. Nest with 6 eggs on the ground in a clover patch on June 16, 1934. Another in a weedfield, held 17 eggs on July 2, 1932. A third, in a hay field, contained 4 eggs on August 2, 1935. On September 3, 1953, 2 adults with 3 or more young, tiny but well-fledged, were found out of the nest.

**KILLDEER.** *Charadrius vociferus vociferus*. Common permanent resident. Nest on the ground at a former garden spot, about 4 feet from a bank and placed beside a lone mullein plant, contained 4 eggs on April 7, 1953. Another, with 4 eggs, on the ground in a pasture on April 20, 1939. Two young out of the nest at Madisonville's new lake on April 27, 1953. Suthard gives these egg dates: April 14, 1924—4 fresh eggs; May 15, 1928—4 fresh eggs; June 3, 1923—4 eggs advanced in incubation; June 13, 1934—4 fresh eggs; June 18, 1925—4 fresh eggs.

**WOODCOCK.** *Philohela minor*. Rare summer resident. Nest with 4 eggs on the ground in a walnut grove on March 22, 1936.

**MOURNING DOVE.** *Zenaidura macroura*. Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in honeysuckle and in cedar, peach, apple, crabapple, willow, osage orange, elm, maple, sassafras, and oak trees, ranging 3-15 feet up. Nest with 2 eggs 3 feet up in an apple tree on March 17, 1946. Another, with 2 well-fledged young, about 4 feet up in an apple tree on September 28, 1945. Suthard records a nest with 2 fresh eggs on March 1, 1920. He had found numerous nests on the ground in wheat and rye fields.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.** *Coccyzus americanus americanus*. Common summer resident. Nests have been recorded in elm, hickory, and crabapple trees, ranging 5 to 20 feet up. A nest with 2 eggs in a button-bush at Spring Lake on June 9, 1935. A late August nest, containing 3 eggs, at Clear Creek, has been previously described (Hancock, 1947). Suthard records: June 6, 1922—2 fresh eggs; July 15, 1924—3 eggs slightly incubated.

**BARN OWL.** *Tyto alba pratincola*. Rare permanent resident.

**SCREECH OWL.** *Otus asio*. Uncommon permanent resident. Suthard records 4 young just hatched on April 20, 1920, and he collected 4 eggs ready to hatch on April 14, 1924.

**GREAT HORNED OWL.** *Bubo virginianus*. Uncommon or rare permanent resident. A young bird was seen out of its nest at Clear Creek on April 8, 1949. Suthard says, "In all the years I collected around Madisonville, this species was common wherever suitable woods survived, but I was never able to locate a nest. On March 1, 1937, while at home preparatory to our exodus to California, I visited my mother's woods east of Madisonville in search of this species, which I had collected in southern Illinois. From a large dead shag-bark hickory stub about 45 feet high I flushed a Great Horned Owl during a snowstorm. After much bark stripping and hard climbing, I reached the top. There, on a heavy mat of owl feathers surrounded by snow, lay 2 eggs of *Bubo virginianus virginianus*."

**BARRED OWL.** *Strix varia*. Fairly common permanent resident. Two young and 1 adult seen together in Elk Creek bottoms on May 8, 1951. Also 2 young out of the nest on June 7, 1934.

**CHUCK-WILL'S WIDOW.** *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. Common summer resident. With the rapid disappearance of extensive woodlands and the resultant small woodlands and groves, this species has become increasingly common. Nest with 2 eggs on the ground in an oak woodland on May 12, 1952. Another nest has already been described (Hancock, 1951). A young bird with a broken wing found in a neighbor's cabbage patch on August 8, 1934. It opened its wide mouth and begged for food.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL.** *Caprimulgus vociferus*. Summer resident, common now where there are extensive woodlands, such as those surrounding Brown Meadow Lake, at Earlington. One called in the writer's neighborhood on May 28, 1953, the first recorded near his home in many years, but it was not heard thereafter.

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK.** *Chordeiles minor*. Common summer resident. Doubtless nests on the roofs of buildings in down-town Madisonville.

**CHIMNEY SWIFT.** *Chaetura pelagica*. Common summer resident. Often nests in the large chimney at the writer's mother's home. A nest and 4 downy young fell from the chimney on July 6, 1935.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.** *Archilochus colubris*. Fairly common summer resident. Nests found in maple and beech trees, ranging from 7 to 30 feet up. Nest with 2 eggs 7 feet up in a maple in Silent Run area on May 13, 1935. Another, with 2 eggs, about 12 feet up in a beech at Clear Creek on June 15, 1935.

**EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER.** *Megasceryle alcyon alcyon*. Uncommon permanent resident. According to Suthard: "Common along ditches and pond banks of sufficient height to afford a nesting site. Most of my experiences were futile, as I excavated the cavity before the eggs were laid. My one set of 5 fresh eggs was collected on May 22, 1928."

**YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER.** *Colaptes auratus*. Common permanent resident. Nest in a dead tree on March 26, 1945; entrance hole about 10 feet up. Starlings in possession by March 30. Another, 25 feet up in dead tree at Municipal Park on April 27, 1953; adults taking turns at incubation. Suthard found it a "very common species in orchards and wood lots in 1910-1922." He collected 7 fresh eggs on April 20, 1922, and the same number on May 18, 1922.

**PILEATED WOODPECKER.** *Hylatomus pileatus*. Uncommon permanent resident. Suthard found this species a "Common resident in large and heavily wooded areas. I have seen numerous nests in early April but could not climb the large dead trees. On April 13, 1937, while at home briefly, I collected 4 fresh eggs from a large dead tree about 50 feet high in the Elk Creek area. The nesting cavity was 40 feet from the ground and measured 18 inches in depth, with a tapered cavity varying in diameter from 6 inches at the top to 10 inches near the bottom. The bottom of the cavity contained some loose chips of pulpy wood. The entrance was 3 inches in diameter."

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.** *Centurus carolinus*. Fairly common permanent resident. Nest approximately 50 feet up in a living oak at the edge of an oak woodland; both parents carrying food to the young on May 22, 1934. Another, about 20 feet up in a dead tree at Municipal Park and 50 feet from a Flicker nest on April 27, 1953.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Permanent resident, decreasing in numbers in recent years. Adults feeding young in a telephone pole at the Illinois Central Railroad on September 4, 1934. Starlings were noted annoying this species as early as March 28, 1934. Suthard found it a "very common resident, subject to decimation by automobiles because of its interest in paved highways. This decimation was apparent to me in 1920, when I saw many of these beautiful birds killed by automobiles." He furnishes these egg dates: May 19, 1922—5 fresh eggs; May 15, 1919—8 fresh eggs; June 8, 1924—7 fresh eggs; June 12, 1924—6 slightly incubated eggs.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER.** *Dendrocopus villosus*. Uncommon permanent resident. Nest in a dead stub in an apple tree; young calling on April 25, 1933. Suthard writes: "Irregular in my observation; in some years it was quite common. One nest, found in a dead crab-apple stub, contained 4 fresh eggs on June 8, 1922."

**DOWNY WOODPECKER.** *Dendrocopus pubescens*. Fairly common permanent resident. Nest 9 feet up in a dead stub; young calling on May 21, 1950. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on May 19, 1922.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD.** *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Fairly common summer resident. Bird on nest about 20 feet up in a sweet gum at Municipal Park on May 12, 1952. Pair were seen building about 20 feet up in a tall sycamore on June 11, 1934. Suthard collected a set of 3 fresh eggs on May 27, 1925.

**CRESTED FLYCATCHER.** *Myiarchus crinitus*. Fairly common summer resident. Young bird seen out of nest on June 20, 1949. An adult seen carrying nesting material on May 28, 1953. Suthard collected 5 fresh eggs on June 5, 1923, and also 5 fresh eggs on June 13, 1922.

**EASTERN PHOEBE.** *Sayornis phoebe*. Fairly common summer resident, rare in winter. Nests recorded on walls of railroad culverts, under bridges, attached to or under rocky ledges, and under the eaves of houses and outbuildings. Nest with 5 eggs on wall of I. C. Railroad culvert on April 19, 1934. Another, with 5 eggs, in similar culvert on May 3, 1933. Suthard cites these egg dates: April 20, 1924—4 fresh eggs; April 29, 1923—5 fresh eggs; May 10, 1922—5 fresh eggs.

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.** *Empidonax virescens*. Fairly common summer resident. Bird incubating in nest about 25 feet up in maple in Silent Run area on June 6, 1949.

**WOOD PEWEE.** *Contopus virens*. Common summer resident. Adults feeding young in nest placed in a fork of a sweet gum about 20 feet up at Clear Creek on June 10, 1945. Suthard collected 2 fresh eggs on June 6, 1922, and again 2 fresh eggs on June 10, 1924.

**HORNED LARK.** *Eremophila alpestris*. Rare summer resident, perhaps less so in western Hopkins County; also recorded regularly in winter. Deserted nest, believed to be of this species, examined on the Owen Stinnett truck farm on June 16, 1952. It was in a slight depression at the edge of a cleanly-cultivated tomato patch and contained 4 eggs. Lovell writes (1947): "In a letter dated November 25, 1944, Dr. T. Atchison Frazer says that he was well acquainted with this bird in Hopkins County as a boy on the farm under the name of Yankee Sparrow and found its nest almost every year."

**ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*. Uncommon summer resident. Pair seen carrying nesting material into a culvert under the L. and N. Railroad on April 30, 1936.

**BARN SWALLOW.** *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*. Fairly common summer resident. Five well-fledged young in a nest within Ham Frazer's stable on June 6, 1949. Nests examined usually contained 4-5 eggs or young.

**PURPLE MARTIN.** *Progne subis subis*. Fairly common summer resident. Several colonies build regularly in bird boxes at Madisonville and Earlington, including one colony at Brasher Bacon's home.

**BLUE JAY.** *Cyanocitta cristata*. Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in pear, apple, plum, elm, sweet gum, and oak trees, and in a lilac bush. Nest with 4 eggs in a pear tree on April 7, 1935. Another, with 2 young being fed, about 25 feet up in a sweet gum at Loch Mary on June 10, 1945. Nests found ranged from 6-25 feet above ground and usually contained 3 to 5 eggs or young. Suthard writes: "I believe the eggs of this species were the first I ever collected. A set of 4 beautiful eggs collected on April 30, 1910." He also recorded 5 eggs, just hatching, on April 20, 1922, and 2 fresh eggs on May 7, 1922.



**COMMON CROW.** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. Common permanent resident. Bird carrying nesting material on March 14, 1946. Another, on nest about 20 feet up in a sassafras tree on April 12, 1946. Suthard cites these egg dates: March 29, 1924—4 fresh eggs; April 9, 1922—5 fresh eggs; May 22, 1922—5 slightly incubated eggs.

**CAROLINA CHICKADEE.** *Parus carolinensis*. Common permanent resident. Nest with 5 eggs in fence post on May 3, 1933. Another, 4 feet up in fence post, also containing 5 eggs, on May 4, 1951. Suthard sends these egg dates: April 2, 1925—5 eggs, incubation advanced; May 1, 1922—4 young; May 21, 1922—5 fresh eggs; May 28, 1924—5 eggs about one-third incubated.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE.** *Parus bicolor*. Common permanent resident. Nest with 5 eggs, entrance hole about 8 feet up in dead stub, on April 20, 1935. Young bird being fed out of nest at Clear Creek on July 28, 1952. Suthard records a nest with 4 fresh eggs on May 6, 1928.

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.** *Sitta carolinensis*. Uncommon permanent resident. Suthard saw a female of this species carrying nesting material in the Elk Creek area on March 21, 1937. He was unable to follow the bird closely and so did not find the nesting site.

**BEWICK'S WREN.** *Thryomanes bewickii*. Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in rural mail boxes, atop a dictionary in an outbuilding, in gourds, in an old automobile tire, on a ledge in a shed, etc. Mail boxes are frequently used. Nest with 8 eggs in a mail box on April 15, 1934; another, also in a mail box, with 3 eggs on June 25, 1948. Nests recorded contained 3-7 eggs or young, rarely 8. Suthard records a nest with 7 fresh eggs on May 6, 1923.

**CAROLINA WREN.** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Common permanent resident. Nests found on a wooden shelf, in a wooden box, atop bottles in an outbuilding, in a cardboard box, and in an unused pigeon box. Nest with 6 eggs on a wooden shelf on April 22, 1935. Another, with 5 young, in a cardboard box in an outbuilding on July 19, 1928. Suthard records a nest with 5 slightly incubated eggs on May 13, 1928.

**EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD.** *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*. Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in wild and garden rosebushes, osage orange, wild cherry, honeysuckle in young pear tree, young elms, and in apple and cedar trees, ranging from 2-7 feet up; usually contained 3-4 eggs or young, sometimes 5. Nest with 4 eggs 4½ feet up in a cedar on April 15, 1949. Another, with 3 well-fledged young, 7 feet up in a wild cherry on September 2, 1951. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on April 24, 1922, and again 4 fresh eggs on May 13, 1923.

**CATBIRD.** *Dumetella carolinensis*. Common summer resident. Nests recorded in apple, crabapple, willow, wild cherry, and wild plum trees, and in blackberry, honeysuckle, lilac, rosebush, and buttonbush, ranging 2-11 feet up; usually contained 3-4 eggs or young. Nest with 4 eggs 11 feet up in an apple tree on May 17, 1948. A late nest with 2 young and 1 egg 7½ feet up in a crotch of a willow at Spring Lake on August 14, 1934. Suthard records 3 fresh eggs collected on the following dates: May 11, 15, and 16, 1922.

**BROWN THRASHER.** *Toxostoma rufum*. Common summer resident, rare in winter. The writer has recorded 59 nests of this species. These were placed in apple, crabapple, wild plum, peach, willow, and osage orange trees, and in a low sassafras clump, wild rose bushes, blackberry thicket, honeysuckle, briars, button-bush, and in brush piles; 3 were on the ground, 1 of which has been described (Hancock, 1951). Twenty-one of these nests were in crabapple trees, or in honeysuckle growing within them. Doubtless other plants are used, such as garden shrubbery and other species of trees. Nests above ground ranged from 1½-9½ feet up, but with only 1 nest above 6 feet. Complete nests of eggs averaged 3-4, with sometimes 5, and in some cases 2 appeared to be a complete set; one set of 6 recorded on May 12, 1934, a nest placed in blackberry briars. Nest with 4 eggs in honeysuckle growing in a crabapple tree on March 30, 1945. Another, with 3 young, 5½ feet up in willow on the shore of a pond on July 16, 1946. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on April 20, 1922, and again 4 fresh eggs on May 1, 1922.

**ROBIN.** *Turdus migratorius*. Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in peach, apple, crabapple, plum, pear, cherry, wild cherry, maple, walnut, hickory, oak, willow, persimmon, pine, elm, and cedar trees, on supports on telephone poles, and on a rail fence, ranging from slightly over 1 foot (fifteen inches) to approximately 50 feet up. Nest with 4 eggs in a small crabapple tree on April 2, 1945. Another, with young (number undetermined) being fed approximately 50 feet up and near the top of an elm tree on August 21, 1948. Nests usually contained 3-4 eggs or young. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on each of the following dates: April 10, 1922; April 17, 1922; and May 8, 1922.

**WOOD THRUSH.** *Hylocichla mustelina*. Common summer resident. Seen building nest in a maple on May 11, 1936. A nest with 2 downy young 6 feet up in an elm at Sunset Lake on June 30, 1948. Mrs. Sue Wyatt Semple saw a nest being built in a medium-sized tree on Weir's Creek levee on May 1, 1951. This nest contained 2 eggs on May 11 but was empty on May 13. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on May 10, 1924, and 3 fresh eggs on June 1, 1924.

*Bluebird*  
**EASTERN BLUEBIRD.** *Sialia sialis*. Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in cavities in oak, walnut, willow, and apple trees, in fence posts, mail boxes, and even tin cans, which were equipped with a side entrance and perch and placed in shaded spots. Usually 3-5 eggs or young in nests, but sometimes 6. Nest with 4 eggs in a mail box on April 10, 1933. Another nest with 2 young and 1 infertile egg, also in a mail box, on July 24, 1950. Sometimes sets of eggs lacking the blue coloring have been seen. A third nest, in a mail box, contained 6 totally white eggs on May 8, 1936. Suthard collected 5 fresh eggs on April 25, 1923.

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.** *Polioptila caerulea caerulea*. Common summer resident. Nests recorded in elm, birch, oak, sweet gum, and black gum trees, ranging approximately 15-30 feet up. A pair were seen building in a black gum at Clear Creek on April 24, 1953. When nests are being built, the birds will go to the nests without hesitation, even when being watched.

(To Be Concluded)

## FOUR SPECIES OF BIRDS AS RECORDED IN HOPKINS COUNTY

By Brasher C. Bacon, Madisonville

### AMERICAN WOODCOCK. *Philohela minor*

The Woodcock is a fairly common migrant and a rare summer resident in Hopkins County. On only two occasions have I seen the aerial flight performance during the mating season of this dweller of the bogs. It is nocturnal in its feeding habits and is rarely seen unless flushed from its resting and feeding grounds, in low, damp woods and wet fields. I have found them nesting, with fresh eggs as early as March 20 and with young as early as April 6, when a light snow covered the ground. My records indicate that they are more common in the fall, and the height of migration is reached during the last week in November. My records are as follows: April 15, 1906, two birds were flushed from a wet area in W. A. Osborn's woods, on Greasy Creek, three miles west of Madisonville; April 6, 1907, an adult with four young a few days old was flushed near a small stream in a grove in the Odd Fellows Cemetery; April 18, 1908, an adult and three young were flushed from the same grove of the preceding year. The old bird fluttered along the ground as if crippled; the young scurried into the honeysuckle that covered the area and were soon lost to view.

On November 20, 1909, I saw one on the edge of a cornfield in a wet area near Clear Creek, eight miles northwest of Madisonville; on March 3, 1911, I saw two birds in a wet area along Greasy Creek in Osburn's woods, three miles west of Madisonville. This was the first courtship flight performance that I had ever witnessed; on April 18, 1911, I found a nest and four eggs advanced in incubation. The nest was in the leaves near the edge of a pond near Clear Creek, eight miles west of Madisonville. On March 12, 1913, two birds were seen along the edge of Pond Creek, seven miles west of Madisonville. On March 20, 1914, I found a nest of this species in a wet meadow on the edge of a grove, forty feet from Greasy Creek, on Mangums farm. The nest was made of leaves and contained four fresh eggs. The bird was flushed from the nest. On April 19, 1914, one was brought to me by J. H. Lynn, for identification. The bird had been found dead on Scott Street in Madisonville.

On November 25, 1915, three birds were flushed from the edge of a pond near Elk Creek, three miles northeast of Madisonville. Mr. S. L. Todd found a Woodcock dead on the highway and brought it to me on February 20, 1916. I saw one bird feeding on the mud flats along the edge of Loch Mary, near Earlington, on May 2, 1918. On February 20, 1920, two birds were observed on the edge of J. A. Major's pond in a pasture. I witnessed the courtship demonstration of this pair until they finally disappeared in a small woodland nearby. On March 26, 1922, I saw one in a wet meadow near Greasy Creek, three miles west of Madisonville. David Arnold brought to me on June 10, 1924, a Woodcock that had been found dead near a pond in the edge of the woods in Wolf Hollow, ten miles northeast of Madisonville. On December 10, 1926, I flushed a Woodcock from the grass along the edge of Pond Creek. On November 14, 1927, two birds were flushed from the shore of Loch Mary, near Earlington. On November 14, 1927, one bird was flushed from a field near Loch Mary. R. V. Omer, a rural letter carrier, on November 25, 1928, brought me a dead bird that he had found on the highway. On April 8, 1928, I flushed

one bird from a field near Brown Meadow Lake, near Earlington. James Burton brought to me for identification a bird that had been killed in a meadow. On November 16, 1929, one bird was flushed from the shore of Spring Lake on the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, one mile southwest of Madisonville. James L. Edwards brought me one on November 28, 1929, that he had killed in a wet meadow, two and a half miles west of Madisonville. Also, on that same day Robert Myers brought in one that had been killed at the edge of a cornfield.

James Burton brought in one found dead in a field on November 19, 1930. N. G. Hollinger killed one on November 19, 1931, near Dalton, Hopkins County. The same day Maurice Salmon brought for identification one that had been killed three and a half miles west of Madisonville. Three days later one that had been killed by Jewell Banks, near a pond in south Hopkins County, was brought for identification. One was seen near the lake on the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge on July 10, 1931. On March 10, 1932, two birds were seen at the south end of Loch Mary in company with several Killdeer. Lucian Johnson, Rural Route 3, found one crippled in a field three miles east of Madisonville on November 28, 1933, and brought it to me. On November 20, 1935, one flew into a garage building at Earlington and was brought to me for identification. On January 26, 1936, two birds were flushed from the shore of the lake at the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge.

It was three years before I recorded the species again. On November 12, 1939, Carl Hatler brought me a bird that had been killed in a field near a pond, five miles north of Madisonville. On October 12, 1939, one bird was found dead on the dam at the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge. On February 12, 1939, two birds were observed at Brown Meadow Lake near the spillway. Two were observed feeding along the shore at Spring Lake on November 25, 1940. Two were flushed near a pond in a cornfield near Clear Creek on November 21, 1942. On March 1, 1943, two were seen at Spring Lake feeding in the overflow back of the lake. On February 28, 1945, one was flushed from the shore of Grapevine Lake on the Grapevine Wildlife Refuge, two miles southeast of Madisonville. One was seen near the museum at the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge on November 29, 1947. On November 10, 1947, two were flushed from the shore of Pleasant View Lake, four miles southwest of Madisonville. Two were seen on November 29, 1951, on the mud flats of Loch Mary. On April 6, 1951, one bird was seen on the east shore of Loch Mary, boring in the mud. On December 3, 1953, two birds were seen along the edge of Spring Lake. I also saw these same birds or two more on December 5, 1953.

I may have other records of this species that I have overlooked or failed to find. All of these are my unpublished records over the years. I hope that they may give insight into the relative abundance of the species over the past years in Hopkins County. Probably they are not so common today as in past years. But my activities in the field have been curtailed to a great extent in recent years and have been confined largely to the birds found on our five wildlife refuges. Woodcock have been observed in every month of the year with the exception of August and September. I have one record for January, four for February, six for March, nine for April, one each for May, June, and July, two for October, twenty for November, and three for December. One or more observers were with me on each field trip when this species was recorded.

WOOD IBIS. *Myctera americana*

My earliest record of the occurrence of the Wood Ibis in Hopkins County is September 7, 1908. A bird was killed by Robert Stewart out of a flock of three feeding in the overflow west of Spring Lake and brought to me for identification. On July 21, 1925, Phil Powell, who lives at Sebree, Webster County, twenty miles north of Madisonville, called me by telephone, saying that he had killed a large black and white bird and was sending it to me for identification. It was one of a flock of 52 which were feeding in a slough near Green River. This bird proved to be an adult male Wood Ibis. I mounted it and displayed it for years in my museum at Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, along with one which I had secured in Hopkins County. On July 23, 1925, a bird of this species was killed by Claud Hanner, who observed several feeding in his pond for a few days. On July 26, 1925, James Suthard and Gatlin Harris saw four birds in W. A. Osburn's woods, along Greasy Creek, four miles west of Madisonville. Suthard is an outstanding ornithologist, and Harris is a competent observer. On July 28, 1925, a flock of 37 birds was reported to me by Gus Hunt, who lived three miles west of Madisonville, near Lunsford's Slough, close to Greasy Creek, where the birds were sighted. When I arrived, the birds were feeding in the pond and along the slough. I secured one adult male from the flock. The birds stayed in the area for several days, feeding in the ponds and sloughs near the creek. On July 31, 1935, Tom Bruce, a farmer who lived near the pond, killed a bird of this species; Gatlin Harris mounted the bird, which was a young male. On August 25, 1925, a conservation officer, Billy Ausenbaugh, reported that he had seen several on the Ohio River in Henderson County. An article in the Louisville *Courier-Journal* for September 2, 1925, reported the occurrence of a large flock of black and white birds near New Albany, Indiana. Gus Hunt, who is a competent observer and who saw the birds near Madisonville in 1925, reported to me that he and his son had seen two Wood Ibises feeding in a slough near Black Creek in west Hopkins County in September, 1950.

Through an error of my own or of the printer, in my "Water and Wading Birds of Hopkins County" (KENTUCKY WARBLER, October, 1933) the year of the occurrence of this species was listed as 1927 instead of 1925.

WHISTLING SWAN. *Cygnus columbianus*

The Whistling Swan is a very rare visitant in Hopkins County. The first record of its occurrence was on December 9, 1932, when a flock of ten was reported on Grapevine Lake, three miles southeast of Madisonville. Five of these birds were killed by Buddy Wilson and Toledo Hale, two boys who lived near the area. Two of the birds were sold to citizens of Madisonville, and three of them were brought to me for identification. The birds proved to be Whistling Swans. This violation of the Federal Migratory Bird Act was prosecuted and is on record in Federal Court in Owensboro. Sam Linebaugh, Guthrie, Kentucky, who was at that time Federal Game Warden, and J. H. Pittman, Conservation Officer for Hopkins County, who lived in Greenville, were the complaining witnesses. On February 2, 1933, two birds were reported on Grapevine Lake by Lorenzo Hayes of Madisonville. On February 4, 1933, a single bird was seen by David

Siria, a rural mail carrier. This bird was flying low over the lake. On February, 3, 1933, four large white birds were observed by Mrs. Lawrence Cardwell as they circled the area near the lake. On April 1, 1933, a bird of this species visited the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge. These birds were probably remnants of the flock of ten that had visited Grapevine Lake. These birds were also seen on Boddie and Powell's Lake nearby. On April 1 and 2, 1935, a Whistling Swan visited the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, leaving on the evening of the second day. This bird was very tame and was viewed at close range. We approached within 50 feet of it as it leisurely took wing and circled the lake twice before leaving. On December 2, 1940, one bird visited the refuge and stayed for one half day. It was very tame and fed near a flock of semi-domesticated Mallards, just off the shore of the lake.

---

#### SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.

##### *Ceophlocus pileatus pileatus*

The Southern Pileated Woodpecker is a fairly common permanent resident in Hopkins County. Formerly an inhabitant of the hills and heavily timbered bottomlands, it may now be found in open and mixed groves of second-growth forests. Civilization to some extent is banishing this fine bird from many of its former happy hunting grounds, as the shrieking moans of numerous sawmills are hymning its requiem. It is nearly impossible for it to find new prospects and privileges under civilization's new conditions, as have many other species, but must share the fate of the primeval forest, since its life is part and parcel with the untamed spirit that haunts the wilderness. The writer has been familiar with this bird for more than forty years in western Kentucky. Here it has held its own despite the growth in population and the rapid deforestation that has taken place in that length of time. To study this bird in its haunts is a memorable experience. The woods reverberate with its music. When it is hewing its way to a meal in the heart of a tree, the silence is filled with the clatter of its workshop, and the flying chips give ample evidence of the prowess of its strong, sharp bill. This species, like all the other woodpeckers, is very fond of ants, which make up a large part of its diet. The ants are secured by driving holes to the heart of growing trees, tapping the central chamber of the colony. I have watched these birds for hours drill into the heart of a living tree. Their food consists, in addition to ants, of beetles and wild fruit. I have frequently observed them on our refuges feeding on acorns, persimmons, sumac berries, wild summer grapes, and wild black cherries. In most instances they are not suspicious, allowing close approach, especially on the wildlife refuges. They occur frequently on Brown Meadow Wildlife Refuge, near Earlington, where they feed

in the oak grove near the club house. They are fairly common permanent residents near Madisonville on Lake Wood Pewee, at Grampian Hills, at Grapevine Lake, and on the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge. They are also to be found on the Pennyryle Wildlife Refuge in Christian County. As far as I have been able to ascertain, only one brood is reared in a season. The period of incubation, which I checked on two pairs of birds, is eighteen days. The eggs are pure white and glossy and vary from ovate to elliptical-ovate, sometimes pointed. I have only one set of eggs of this interesting bird in my collection. My earliest nesting date is April 20, the latest May 30.

My nesting records for Hopkins County follow: April 25, 1909, Mitchell Hills, 30 feet from the ground in an elm tree located in a swampy area near Little Greasy Creek. The nesting cavity contained three fresh eggs. These birds were seen in the woods near the nesting site. This area, a forested region of open mixed woods, is now included in Lake Pewee Wildlife Refuge, three miles northwest of Madisonville. On May 20, 1912, I found a nest in a dead sweet gum at a height of 38 feet. The nesting cavity contained two young birds about three days old. The tree was about 125 feet from the first nesting tree found in 1909 and was in the edge of the woods. On April 20, 1914, I found a nest at a height of 18 feet in a partially dead maple near the creek bank, in Mitchell Hills. Two birds were seen in the area. There were two nesting holes in the tree, and four fresh eggs were collected. On May 30, 1915, at Spring Lake, I found a nest in a cavity in a tulip poplar, 32 feet from the ground. I examined this nest, which contained three nestlings about three days old. They were naked and blind. At Spring Lake on April 26, 1918, I found a nest in a hollow of a dead maple 160 feet from the water's edge. This tree had two nesting holes, one of which contained four fresh eggs. On the Lunsford Farm, on Little Greasy Creek, four miles west of Madisonville on the Rosecreek Road, I found a nest on May 12, 1918. The nest was about 40 feet up in a dead elm tree in an open field near the creek. The birds nested in this tree for several years. On April 22, 1923, in Harris Woods, two and a half miles west of Madisonville on the Rosecreek Road, I found a nest in a partially dead maple tree at a height of 20 feet. The excavation was 20 inches deep and took the birds three weeks and two days to complete before the first egg was laid. Both birds were seen each time I visited the nesting site, and both birds took part in the excavation of the nesting cavity. On April 20, 1923, on John A. Powell's farm, four miles west of Madisonville, there was a nesting hole 35 feet from the ground in a dead elm, located in an open field near a pond. The cavity contained fresh eggs on that date. On May 10, 1925, in Harris Woods, in the same tree as the one located in 1923, a nest contained four fresh eggs and was 26 feet up. On the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, on April 21, 1931, a nest containing fresh eggs was found. I determined this by flushing the bird again on two occasions. On April 24, 1933, on Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge I found a nest in the same tree as the one last named, containing three eggs. So far as I know, the birds have not nested near the lake since that date, as a pair of Barred Owls established themselves in an oak nearby in 1934. The nesting site was located in a ravine near the present site of the Museum of Oology on Chickadee Hill. Thirty-five years ago the birds nested in a large dead oak tree near the present site of my lodge in Grampian Hills, where they are still frequently seen flying back and forth across the lake. In later years the tree has blown down, and the birds have moved farther into the woods across the lake.

## FIELD NOTES

**Late Censuses.**—Two censuses arrived after the February issue had gone to press. They appear here, for they are deeply appreciated and show some fine interest in two areas where we need many more active bird students: the mountains and the central Bluegrass area.

**DANVILLE.**—Jan. 2; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. County roads, farmland, thickets. Clear: 32 to 50. Six observers in three parties. Water open by late afternoon but frozen for several days before. Many ponds and creeks dry. Mallard, 42; Turkey Vulture, 28; Black Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 18; Barn Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Horned Lark, 28; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 8600; Carolina Chickadee, 32; Tufted Titmouse, 27; Carolina Wren, 5; Mockingbird, 2; Robin, 5; Bluebird, 21; Cedar Waxwing, 1; Migrant Shrike, 2; Starling, 460; English Sparrow, 123; Meadowlark, 28; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Cardinal, 68; Goldfinch, 18; Eastern-Towhee, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 64; Field Sparrow, 7; White-crowned Sparrow, 14; White-throated Sparrow, 23; Fox Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 11. Total, 38 species, 9667 individuals. A Brown Thrasher was seen two days after the count. The severe drought has so dried up our streams and ponds that I have seen only one Wilson's Snipe this whole winter.—W. S. GLORE, JR.

**WILLARD.**—December 29; 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. About 8 miles through fields and woodlands. Temp. 48 to 39. Sparrow Hawk, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 10; Crow, 27; Carolina Chickadee, 20; Tufted Titmouse, 6; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 9; Bluebird, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; English Sparrow, 12; Cardinal, 25; Goldfinch, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 45; Tree Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 12. Total, 18 species, 201 individuals. Other species observed during Christmas week: Bob-white, Marsh Hawk, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Mourning Dove.—ERCEL KOZEE.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A SHRIKE'S NEST

Two Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) were perched on the wires along Hurstborne Lane, which is located in open farming country on the edge of Jefferson County. As the date was May 3, 1953, it occurred to me that they were probably nesting. After looking up and down the road carefully, I decided that there was only one good place for their nest, a dense bush which had been trimmed back many times by the telephone company to protect their wires. It turned out to be, a redbud (*Cercia canadensis*) overgrown with Japanese honeysuckle vines. Near the top, ten feet from the ground, there was a bulky nest in the thickest part of the bush. Paper formed the outer part of the nest, and several strings had been woven into the margin. The nest contained 6 eggs.

On May 6 the nestlings had hatched and were just beginning to grow feathers, but they were too young to show any fear of man. Both times when I examined the nest, the adults made no attempt to attack me, although one of them flew over the area two or three



times. Shrikes are not particularly common in the Louisville area, but persistent driving in the open farming areas will nearly always uncover a bird or two. The only other nest observed by the author was in Oldham County, beyond the Covered Bridge Boy Scout Reservation. This nest was found, with the aid of Mabel Slack, along the road in the spring of 1937. On May 31, 1947, near Anchorage, in Jefferson County the author saw 3 young shrikes on a fence and, later, one on a telephone wire. All were calling loudly for food; one on the fence and the one on the telephone wire were fed with what appeared to be insect larvae.

Very little has been written on Loggerhead Shrikes in Kentucky. The only other published records of nests appear to be two by Gordon Wilson (WILSON BULLETIN, 36: 119, 1923) for the Bowling Green area, one found in 1912 and the other being built on April 11, 1923.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OBSERVATIONS ON SHRIKES

It is a well-known fact that shrikes occasionally prey upon other birds. I have made two observations that may prove of interest to other ornithologists. A few years ago, while I was hunting in Warren County, a Migrant Shrike was observed attempting to impale a Carolina Wren on a twig of a small tree. I watched it for some time, and it was still struggling with its problem when I left. The second observation was made while we were taking the 1953 Bird Count on December 26 in the Bowling Green area. Professor Charles L. Taylor and I were observing the birds in a partially wooded spot when we noticed some Cardinals flying out of a thicket in great haste and confusion. Soon a male Cardinal flew by us with a Migrant Shrike in hot pursuit. They crossed a clear area and disappeared in a cedar grove. The final result was suspected but not definitely known.—L. Y. LANCASTER, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

### AN ALBINO ROBIN

As I was leaving my house yesterday morning, February 1, 1953, I observed a large number of Robins in the yard. Feeding in the midst of them was one of a snow-white color, with the exception of small black markings on the wing tips. I called my wife, who also observed what to me was a rarity. I also called Louie Gerow, who is fairly well versed in ornithology, who also identified the bird as a Robin.—J. T. COX, Assistant Director, Division of Fisheries, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BARRED OWL INSIDE CITY

Several times during the fall of 1953 there came to me reports that a Barred Owl had been observed inside the city. However, before an investigation could be made, an unusual incident occurred. On the evening of December 27, 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Brashear and their son David were away from their home on Nutwood Avenue.

When they returned, they heard a disturbance in David's pigeon yard. Upon investigating, David found a Barred Owl had entered the enclosure through the entrance trap provided for the pigeons. The hungry visitor had destroyed two choice birds and was eating on one of them. The owl was promptly despatched and its skin turned over to a taxidermist for mounting.—L. Y. LANCASTER, Bowling Green. (On February 23, 1954, a Barred Owl was seen in the water maple next to the window of the office of the president of Western, at 9:00 A. M. A great commotion among the Starlings attracted my attention to it.—Editor).

\* \* \* \* \*

### WOODCOCK OBSERVATIONS

On the gravel road in Mammoth Cave National Park between Sloan's Crossing and the site of old Union City on February 24, 1954, four Woodcocks were heard "peenting." All four birds could be heard making periodic flights, and three were observed in flight. Two birds were noted leaving the ground simultaneously; together they spiraled upward in tight circles and were watched out of sight. Both landed at their respective stations on the ground and resumed "peenting." On March 2, 1954, a series of seven listening stations were established in areas of favorable Woodcock habitat along this road. The distance between each station and the next was at least four tenths of a mile; the overall route was about three miles long. Beginning at dusk and listening a few minutes at each station, I heard a total of seven Woodcock, three of which were observed in flight. Two birds were heard at each of three stations and one at another.—DAN M. RUSSELL, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ALBINO CROWS AT PARIS

As I came into Paris, Kentucky, one Sunday morning in March, 1953, a few miles out of town I saw a flight of fifty or sixty Crows, flying low across the road, two hundred yards ahead of me. That was not unusual for this part of the state, but it was unusual to see a dozen or more albinos scattered among the normal ones. It was my first time to see an albino Crow.—J. W. CLOTFELTER.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### MISS SMITH AS NATURE LEADER

Miss Virginia Smith was nature leader at Cumberland Falls State Park the week of March 21, 1954, for the Kentucky Recreation Workshop.

\* \* \* \* \*

### DR. LOVELL HONORED

The 1954 annual award given by the Beckham Bird Club was presented to Dr. Harvey B. Lovell on February 10, 1954. The award recognizes someone who has made "constructive contributions to Kentucky ornithology." At this dinner meeting of the club Dr. George R. Mayfield, one of the founders of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, spoke on "Learning Bird Calls and Songs." The 1953 award went to Burt L. Monroe.

## A TRIBUTE TO ORNITHOLOGY

Mrs. Yancey Altsheler writes: "At a dinner party recently I sat next to Dr. Frank H. Caldwell, president of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Louisville. During a discussion of ornithology, he told me of a communication that he had had some time ago. I thought you might be interested in it for the KENTUCKY WARBLER and asked him to write it for you. I am sending his note with this letter."

"Every once in a while a theological seminary receives a voluntary suggestion as to ways in which its work might be improved in preparing young men for the Gospel ministry. To me, one of the most interesting of such suggestions was contained in a letter from a minister in Virginia who has made bird study his major hobby. In his letter he expressed the serious conviction that ornithology be incorporated in the seminary as a basic prescribed course, along with traditional courses in Hebrew, Greek, Doctrinal Theology, Church History, Missions, Homiletics, etc. 'I have learned more about God,' he said, 'in my study of birds than I ever learned out of the textbooks in systematic theology.'"

\* \* \* \* \*

## A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI

by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Oxford University Press, 1953. \$6.00

This book is identical in plan to the eastern guide, which is familiar to most Kentuckians. The western area contains only 22 states but is actually a much larger area than that covered by the first volume. Over 300 persons helped in this great cooperative endeavor. The descriptions of seven of the states were written by men especially expert on the areas, namely, Arizona by Gale Monson, Arkansas by W. J. Baerg, California by C. G. Sibley and H. L. Cogswell, Nevada by Jean Linsdale, New Mexico by J. Stokley Ligon, Oregon by Robert M. Storm, and Utah by Wm. H. Behle. The other 15 states were described by Pettingill, himself, with the aid of a group of ornithologists listed at the end of each chapter.

Each chapter is headed by an attractive black and white sketch of a typical bird of the area; for example, Arizona by a Cactus Wren, California by a Condor, Colorado by the Ptarmigan, Idaho by Clark's Nutcracker, Iowa by the Upland Plover, Kansas by a Magpie, Louisiana by the Brown Pelican, Montana by the Western Grebe, New Mexico by the Road Runner, etc. The common names have been revised from those in the A. O. U. Check List, following closely those names used by the National Audubon Society for the Christmas Bird Counts and Peterson in his Bird Guides, chiefly to obtain a common name for the species as a whole. This tampering with the common names is creating considerable confusion, and it is to be hoped that the next check list will establish a name which will be used by all writers of popular bird books. The fault lies with the A. O. U. for not bringing their list up to date, however, and not with popular writers. Subspecies are omitted except in a few cases, where they are given in parentheses, in line with a growing trend.

Each state description begins with an extensive introduction, in which the physiographic features of the state are described in an interesting way and lists of typical birds are given for the most common habitats. This is followed by a description of the best places to go to look for both typical and unusual birds. When difficult-to-find spots are described, detailed directions are given as in Washington: "If a bird finder is anxious to see Black Oyster-catchers, he should visit CAPE FLATTERY on the western tip of the Olympic Peninsula. A wild, desolate place, it is the only spot in Washington where these big shorebirds may be found at any time of the year. The cape is reached from Port Angeles by driving west 39 miles on State Route 9A to a point about 5 miles beyond Pysht. Turn here to Clallam Bay and Neah Bay (25 miles distant) on an unnumbered road," and so on for half a page.

Probably more Kentuckians have spent more time in Rocky Mountain National Park than in any other Western spot. An interesting trip up Trail Ridge Road is described with beaver dams and pikas thrown in. And near the top, "Next, stop at Iceberg Lake, which is above 12,000 feet; walk to the edge of the cirque on the left and peer over its edge to view the steep walls; Brown-capped Rosy Finches are likely to be perched on the ledge shelves or moving to and from their nests in the various crevices."

Other features of this remarkable book are a list of museums, such as the Denver Museum of Natural History, with 25,000 bird skins, 5,000 sets of eggs, and 1,000 mounts, the latter grouped according to altitudinal associations; a list of bird clubs such as the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, which publishes the *Nebraska Bird Review* and may be contacted at the Nebraska State Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; and a long list of references at the end of the book. There is also a 57-page, double-column index, which indexes birds according to states as well as all localities described in the text.—HARVEY B. LOVELL.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

The 31st annual Spring Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held in Louisville, April 23, 24, 1954. The session began with a luncheon meeting on Friday in the Kentucky Hotel with Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Vice-President, presiding.

The speaker for this occasion was Dr. Charles M. Kirkpatrick of Purdue University whose subject was "Education in Wildlife." He stated that the problems of wildlife conservation are difficult to solve. With thousands of hunters, imbued with the ingrained instinct to kill, and farmers destroying many natural habitats, wildlife is being depleted. "Wildlife management is management of human beings," and though Kentucky is swamped with funds for the conservation of wildlife, very little of this money is being used to educate the public. He said that it was the duty of each citizen to assume some responsibility for the conservation of wildlife.

At the conclusion of Dr. Kirkpatrick's talk a motion was adopted that the Executive Committee study this problem with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Mrs. William B. Tabler read the Treasurer's report; and Dr. Gordon Wilson, Editor of the Kentucky Warbler, asked for material, a wealth of it making his job less difficult.

Mrs. Stamm announced that the Fall Meeting would be October 8-10 at Kenlake Hotel. She also stated that Miss Virginia Smith, appointed Membership Chairman by Dr. Barbour, reported 325 members.

Attention was called to the pamphlet, *Birds of the Mammoth Cave National Park*, by Dr. Gordon Wilson.

In the afternoon the Science Club of the 5th and 6th Grades of Kerrick School—Mrs. Margaret Graham and Miss Lena Roberts, Teachers; Mrs. Martha M. Chamberlain, Principal—held "A club meeting wherein the problems of the feeding habits and protection of birds are discussed."

Also Prof. James B. Cope, Professor of Biology at Earlham College, gave an interesting talk, illustrated with color slides, on "The Museum as an Education Tool for the Study of Birds." He said that movies, such as Walt Disney's *Water Birds*; live specimens of snakes, frogs, birds, animals; also bird-nests were used as leaders to attract townspeople, as well as students and children to the museum.

In conclusion Dr. Harvey B. Lovell showed two movies, courtesy of the Louisville Board of Education: "Song Birds of the North Woods," photographed by Dr. Arthur Allen, Cornell University; and "Ruby-throated Hummingbird," photographed by Dr. Olin S. Pettinghill, Jr.

Saturday morning, a field trip, led by Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, concluded the meeting.

VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 23, 1954

Balance on hand October, 1953.....	\$129.79
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Membership dues to date.....	366.00
Dividend on Endowment.....	12.25
Donations to cover expense of Fall Meeting.....	82.50
Sale of Check Lists, Warblers, Bibliographies and Indexes.....	12.43
Total.....	\$602.97
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	
To Selby Smith for printing Nov. and Feb. Warblers.....	\$164.20
Expenses of Fall Meeting.....	82.00
Bank Charge.....	1.00
Postage and Envelopes.....	45.82
Total.....	293.02
Balance.....	\$309.95
\$75.00 of this amount belongs in our Endowment Fund.	
In our Endowment Fund we also have seven \$100 bonds.....	\$700.00
FAN B. TABLER, Secretary-Treasurer	